

Message Text

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WHITE HOUSE:HHORAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 000177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, EAID, LI, US

SUBJECT: ISSUES AND TALKING POINTS FOR USDEL'S MEETING
WITH TOLBERT

REF: MONROVIA 7809

BACKGROUND

UNITED STATES POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR LIBERIA HAVE BEEN
PREDICATED LARGELY ON A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR
TWO COUNTRIES. MAJOR COMPONENTS OF THE US PERCEPTION OF
THIS RELATIONSHIP INCLUDE HISTORICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TIES,
A LONG TRADITION OF US ECONOMIC AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE,
LIBERIA'S OPEN DOOR POLICY TO AMERICAN INVESTMENTS, AND ITS
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TRADITION OF CULTURAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

SINCE TAKING OFFICE IN 1971, PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAS MADE IT CLEAR HE WISHES TO CONTINUE HIS PREDECESSOR'S POLICY OF CULTIVATING LIBERIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. BECAUSE OF OUR HISTORIC TIES AND LONGSTANDING FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION, AND BECAUSE LIBERIA IS A USEFUL BRIDGE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND AFRICA, WE GENERALLY WISH TO BE RESPONSIVE TO LIBERIA'S OVERTURES. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WISH TO EXCITE EXPECTATIONS BEYOND OUR

CAPACITY TO RESPOND.

ISSUES/TALKING POINTS

1. US-LIBERIA RELATIONS

MANY INFLUENTIAL LIBERIANS ARE BEGINNING TO QUESTION THE VALUE OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP, BOTH BECAUSE THEY FEEL IT IS OUT OF STEP WITH THE TIMES, AND BECAUSE THEY FEEL THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT CONTRIBUTED ADEQUATELY TO LIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT. ADDITIONALLY, SOME LIBERIANS HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT INTERESTED IN THEM OR IN AFRICA'S MAJOR PROBLEMS.

YOUR TALKING POINTS

--PRESENT PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT AND CONVEY THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REGARDS TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT.

--ACKNOWLEDGE THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LIBERIA. TELL PRESIDENT TOLBERT THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO BE SENSITIVE TO LIBERIA'S NEEDS.

--EXPRESS, ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES, CONTINUED INTEREST IN LIBERIA, ITS PEOPLE AND PROGRESS AND IN MAINTAINING THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS WHICH OUR TWO COUNTRIES ENJOY.

--EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR LIBERIA'S COOPERATION WITH US
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IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. NOTE THAT WE APPRECIATE LIBERIA'S UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF US INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVES AS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT IN OUR RELATIONSHIP.

2. INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

TALKING POINTS

--THE UNITED STATES IS SENSITIVE TO LIBERIA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THEM.

--YOU WILL RECALL THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS THAT WE BELIEVE IN SUPPORTING OUR FRIENDS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

--AS A RESULT OF AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER'S TRIP TO MONROVIA IN NOVEMBER, PRESIDENT FORD HAS AUTHORIZED THE DELEGATION TO SIGN, ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES, A 1.9 MILLION DOLLAR AGREEMENT WHICH IS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE

HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR ALL LIBERIAN CITIZENS. THIS FIVE-YEAR AGREEMENT WILL LEAD TO THE EXTENSION OF HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS, NOW BEING DEVELOPED IN LOFA COUNTY, TO THE SEVEN OTHER RURAL COUNTIES. THE BALANCE OF THE FOUR MILLION DOLLAR COST OF THIS PROJECT WILL BE FINANCED BY AID, SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, DURING FISCAL YEAR 1977.

--COMMENSURATE WITH YOUR DESIRE TO IMPROVE YOUR EDUCATION SYSTEM, A TEAM OF EDUCATORS WILL ARRIVE IN LIBERIA IN JANUARY TO FOLLOW-UP ON THE VISIT BY THE AID-SPONSORED HARVARD TEAM. THEY HOPE TO IDENTIFY USEFUL AND INNOVATIVE WAYS OF IMPROVING THE LIBERIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING A VIABLE PROJECT WHICH COMES AS A RESULT OF THE TEAMS' EFFORTS.

--WHEN THE FINAL ENGINEERING DESIGN AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES ARE COMPLETED FOR THE MONROVIA-KONIA AND THE BUCHANAN RIVER ACCESS ROADS, WE EXPECT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FINANCING FOR THESE PROJECTS.
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--AS A FURTHER INDICATION OF OUR AWARENESS OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER, TO THE EXTENT THAT APPROPRIATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AND PROJECTS ARE READY FOR IMPLEMENTATION, A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF OUR ASSISTANCE IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING IN 1977.

3. OFFICIAL US VISIT BY PRESIDENT TOLBERT

PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAS MADE SEVERAL PRIVATE VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES AND USUALLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON THESE OCCASIONS. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES A STATE VISIT WILL ENHANCE HIS DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL

IMAGE.

YOUR TALKING POINTS (ONLY IF ISSUE RAISED BY TOLBERT)

--1976 OBVIOUSLY WILL BE AN EXTREMELY BUSY YEAR FOR PRESIDENT FORD. THEREFORE, THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OFFICIAL VISIT MUST BE DISCUSSED FURTHER AS HIS SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR IS PREPARED.

4. SOUTHERN AFRICA

LIBERIA IS A STRONG PROPONENT OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND HOPES THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL

ASSUME A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN HELPING TO BRING THIS ABOUT. PRESIDENT TOLBERT BELIEVES THAT ALL MEN OF GOODWILL SHOULD DO THEIR UTMOST TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF MANKIND EVERYWHERE. WITHIN THIS CONTEXT, HE HAS ENGAGED IN A DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA'S PREMIER.

YOUR TALKING POINTS (IF ISSUE RAISED BY TOLBERT)

--OUR DESIRES CONCERNING THE EVOLUTION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE IN ACCORD WITH YOURS. THE US IS WELL AWARE OF YOUR EFFORTS, AS WELL AS THOSE OF OTHER BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS, WHICH ARE AIMED AT BRINGING PEACEFUL
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CHANGE THROUGH DIALOGUE, AND WE SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT NON-VIOLENT CHANGE WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF AFRICA.

--THE UNITED STATES HAS LONG ENCOURAGED PEACEFUL CHANGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE OUR POLICY OF COMMUNICATION WITHOUT ACCEPTANCE OF APARTHEID IS THE APPROACH MOST LIKELY TO BRING ABOUT PROGRESS WITHOUT VIOLENCE.

--SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS SAID THAT THE SYSTEM OF APARTHEID IS CONTRARY TO ALL WE BELIEVE IN AND STAND FOR.

--IN NAMIBIA, WE ARE CONTINUING TO URGE SOUTH AFRICA TO WITHDRAW AND GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE. WE BELIEVE THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO THE PROCESS OF SELF-DETERMINATION, AND WE BELIEVE THE BANTUSTAN CONCEPT MUST NOT BE APPLIED TO NAMIBIA.

5. ANGOLA

PRESIDENT TOLBERT IS UPSET OVER WHAT HE CONSIDERS BIG POWER POLITICS IN ANGOLA, AND HE HAS STATED THAT THE "UNFORTUNATE AND REGRETTABLE ANGOLAN DEBACLE NOT ONLY THREATENS THE FUTURE PEACE, HAPPINESS, PROGRESS, AND PROSPERITY OF THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA, BUT ALSO THE ALL IMPORTANT SOLIDARITY OF AFRICA AND THE HARMONIOUS EXISTENCE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY." LIBERIA HAS NOT RECOGNIZED THE MPLA AND TOLBERT IS CONCERNED ABOUT MPLA'S DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIETS.

YOUR TALKING POINTS (IF ISSUE RAISED BY TOLBERT)

--THE US OBJECTIVE IN ANGOLA IS TO COUNTER WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE BLATANT SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AN AREA FAR REMOVED FROM THE SOVIET UNION'S NORMAL AREA OF

SECURITY CONCERN.

--THE UNITED STATES SUPPORTS THE ORGANIZATION OF
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AFRICAN UNITY'S CALL FOR A CEASE FIRE AND NEGOTIATIONS AMONG ALL THE FACTIONS, AND WE ARE WITHHOLDING EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION FROM ANY ONE FACTION. WE HOPE THE UPCOMING OAU SUMMIT WILL CALL FOR AN END TO ALL FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT, AND WE WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A JUST AND BALANCED APPROACH.

--THE UNITED STATES IS PURSUING NO UNILATERAL INTEREST IN ANGOLA, BUT RATHER IS TRYING TO INSURE THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA.

--WE BELIEVE, AS YOU OBVIOUSLY DO, THAT THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA HAVE A RIGHT TO A GOVERNMENT OF THEIR OWN CHOOSING, AND A RIGHT TO LIVE IN PEACEFUL INDEPENDENCE AND WELL-BEING.

--WE ARE CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS TO KEEP AFRICA FREE OF GREAT-POWER RIVALRY, AND WE LOOK TO OUR LIBERIAN FRIENDS FOR COOPERATION AND LEADERSHIP IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL.

ROBINSON

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